CHAPTER 21

THE GHOSTHUNT

AKUMU-NO SUMU-IE 3

Comics=Shiho Inada
Original Novel=Fuyumi Ono

DAY 5

Heey!

YOU SHOULD'VE TOLD ME EARLIER IF YOU'RE ALREADY FINISHED!

HOW YOU DO THINK I FELT, WAITING OUTSIDE FOR THE POLICE TO ARRIVE?!

LIKE I SAID!

Really, I am envious of how carefree she can be...

YOU DON'T SOUND SINCERE AT ALL!

kiih!

How short-tempered of you, Ayako-sama.

THAT'S WHY I SAID I'M SORRY.

FIGURES... THEY'RE THE MOST CLUELESS ONES HERE AFTER ALL.

EH?

I DON'T THINK SAYING 'THEY WERE BEING POSSESSED' WOULD CUT IT, EITHER.

I DON'T UNDER-STAND WHAT'S GOING ON AT ALL!

THE THREE OF THEM TURNED OUT LIKE THIS BECAUSE THEY FELL VICTIM TO SPIRITS.

I DON'T THINK THAT'S POSSIBLE, THOUGH.

NO...

THE PSYCHIATRIC EXAMINATIONS WON'T BE ABLE TO DIAGNOSE ANYTHING.

ARE THEY... GETTING ARRESTED?

hmm

Well...

WHO KNOWS? MAYBE THEY'LL BE HELD UNACCOUNTABLE DUE TO MENTAL ILLNESS.

IT COUNTS AS AN ATTEMPTED MURDER, DON'T YOU THINK?

THEY DID ENTER SOMEONE ELSE'S HOUSE WHILE CARRYING DANGEROUS WEAPONS.

THIS IS TOO CRUEL!

THEY'RE JUST UNLUCKY TO MOVE INTO SUCH A WEIRD HOUSE!

BUT THEY'RE NOT THE ONES AT FAULT!

SO IT CAN PROBABLY WILL BE SETTLED WITH A NON-PROSECUTION.

THEY ARE NOT BEING CHARGED WITH A CRIME.

NO, THEY WON'T.

!

HEY...

WILL THEY REALLY GET CON-VICTED?

IN THE END... PERHAPS SPIRITS DO EXIST IN THIS WORLD.

.....YOU MEAN IT?

Why are you looking at me like that...

.....eh?

I STILL CAN'T COMPREHEND...

...WHETHER OR NOT SUCH THINGS REALLY EXIST.

BUT... THERE MIGHT REALLY BE SOME INCIDENTS THAT ARE CAUSED BY SPIRITS.

SPIRITS, POSSES-SIONS, DIVINE PUNISH-MENTS, CURSES,

WOULD IT BE ALL RIGHT TO JUDGE PEOPLE AS CRIMINALS OFFHANDEDLY WHEN THEY WERE BEING POSSESSED, AND HENCE DO NOT GRASP THEIR OWN ACTIONS?

ON THE OTHER HAND, LIKE THE SASAKURA...

EVEN IF THE CURRENT LAWS CAN'T CONCLUDE IT AS A CRIME, IS IT SOMETHING THAT SHOULD BE OVERLOOKED?

IF THERE IS AN AGGRESSOR WHO CASTS A CURSE, AN IN PRACTICE, KILLS HIS OR HER VICTIM IN THAT MANNER...

WE CAN'T SIMPLY IGNORE THE POSSIBILITY OF IT BEING A PSYCHIC PHENOMENON AND HANDLE IT WITH COMMON LAWS.

THAT'S... MY OPINION ON THIS.

IF WE ASSUME THAT PSYCHIC PHENOMENON CAN HAPPEN IN REALITY,

THEN FOR EVERY INCIDENT THAT OCCURS,

BUT...

THE SPECIAL DEPARTMENT IS ESTABLISHED IN ORDER TO BE ABLE TO HANDLE SUCH INCIDENTS IN THE FIRST PLACE.

CAN SUCH A BELIEF BE ACTUALLY APPROVED?

BUT I'LL MAKE THIS CLEAR.

SOME OF THE INVESTIGATION MATERIALS CAN PROBABLY BE PROVEN...

YEAH...

DO AS YOU LIKE.

THERE ARE NO FEASIBLE METHODS TO STOP A GUY WHO CHOOSES TO BECOME AN IDIOT OF HIS OWN VOLITION ANYWAY.

Uuh

Damn it...

And back to square sigh one...

I HAVEN'T REMOVED MY SUSPICIONS ABOUT YOU.

SSH...

WHAT'S WRONG?

NARU?

tap tap tap tap tap tap tap tap!

I DON'T SEE ANY SHADOWS...

BUT,

IS SOMEONE THERE?

creak

clang

KER-CHACK

CHICK

grk

krk

creak

I'm home!

KAWANABE HITOMI...

Mo~m

I'm ba~ck!

A SOUVENIR BAG...

Mom?

IF I REMEMBER CORRECTLY, IT WAS FILLED WITH A SAVINGS BOX, SOME TEA,

AND A SET OF TEACUPS IN DIFFERENT SIZES...

Mom...

You're not home?

DON'T COME IN!

LEAVE THIS HOUSE!

GET OUT AND NEVER COME BACK!

tap

GO BACK!

Weird...

Mom, you there?

Uncle~

Mom

Why did I even bother buying those souvenirs?

カチャ rattle

I already told them I'm coming back today.

Geez, why is no one home?

STOP...

DON'T GO IN THERE!

NOOOO!!

IT WASN'T ABOUT HER OWN DEATH.

IT WAS ABOUT HOW NO ONE HAD BEEN THERE TO WELCOME HER WHEN SHE HAD RETURNED HOME.

IT WAS A NIGHTMARE THAT SHE FOUND HARDER TO FORGET, MANY MORE TIMES THAN HER DEATH.

...WAS HER NIGHTMARE.

THIS...